

CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
November 19, 2014 Minutes

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on November 19th, 2014,
at 6:00pm in the Lower Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E. First Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Denise Heap, Chair
Mark Tompert, Vice Chair
Cheryl Anderson
Colleen Byron
Karen Frias-Long
Frank Johnson
Cliff Moon
Lu Ann Schmidt

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tony Liuzzo
Talmage Pearce
Nadia Taylor

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Alicoate
Deanna Cantrell
Ruth Giese

GUESTS

1. Chair's Call to Order.

Ms. Heap began the meeting at 6:00pm.

2. Items from Citizens Present.*

There were no citizens who requested to speak.

3. Approval of minutes from the October 22nd, 2014 meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Tompert to approve the October 22nd, 2014 meeting minutes, Ms. Anderson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Discuss and take action on Mesa Police Department Report.

- Report on police related incidents and activities.

Deputy Chief Cantrell oversees the Special Operations Unit which includes: S.W.A.T., K-9 Officers, Violent Offender Unit, Bomb techs, Warrant Unit, Hostage Negotiators, Career Criminal Squad, Gang Unit, Undercover Unit, Organized Crimes, Asset Forfeiture, and Mobile Field Force totaling approximately 185 people. Year to date they have completed 108 search warrants served and 85 VIP protections. The dozen officers in the Gang Unit were deputized this year by the U.S. Marshals Service in order to enforce more on federal land. They have made 409 arrests; of those 260 were gang members, and 107 most violent offenders arrests, 21 of those were homicides. In Mesa, there are approximately 3800 active gang members with over 500 document gangs (80% are Mesa specific). Mr. Moon questioned what the common age range for gang members. In response, Deputy Chief Cantrell stated that the most active gang members are typically between 16-24 years old; however they have dealings with gang members of all ages. Deputy Chief Cantrell is also part of the Mesa Police Diversity Team.

- Updates and scheduling of upcoming Police Advisory Board meetings.

There were no updates to report for this item.

5. Hear, discuss, and take action on items presented by the Youth Diversity Education Team Sub-Committee.

- Provide an update on expanding youth involvement with the Community Cinema Series.

*Supporting data is available for public review in the Diversity and Neighborhood Outreach Office,
20 E. Main St., Suite 250, Mesa, Arizona 85211-1466 (480) 644-5034*

Ms. Frias-Long provided an update on the success of the November 6th, 2014 Cinema Series film and event, Evolution of a Criminal. Currently they have three potential panelists for April's Homestretch event. Staff will provide promotional materials as they become available so YDET members can reach out to youth groups to attend.

- Provide an update on Diversity Youth Survey in order to explore ways to connect with youth and educate them on diversity related issues.

Ms. Frias-Long advised that they have received 43 completed surveys. Ms. Frias-Long stated that youth expressed an interest in learning more about diversity and prefer to do so through social media such as Facebook and Instagram. They also expressed an interest in short videos or films and community service activities. DAT members agreed to work on increasing youth involvement in the Cinema Series and to research the feasibility of a volunteer based project in a historically significant area where they could engage youth to participate.

- MLK Committee's Youth Leadership Development Conference.

There were no updates to report for this item.

- Provide an update on exploring and assessing whether bullying is an issue in Mesa.

There were no updates to report for this item.

6. Hear, and discuss on items presented by the Disabilities Action Team Sub-Committee.

- Provide an update on the housing opportunities provided by the City of Mesa for people with disabilities.

Ms. Anderson explained that she heard a presentation from Ms. Albright, City of Mesa Housing and Community Development Director, on how the department accommodates and provides opportunities for people with disabilities.

- Provide an update on town hall meetings to educate the community, business, and leadership on mental health and substance abuse issues.

Ms. Anderson advised that representatives from Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care are willing to partner with them on the Town Hall meetings to educate the community, business, and leadership on mental health and substance abuse issues. The first meeting has been confirmed for Tuesday, March 24th, 2015 at Marc Community Resources, Inc.

- Provide an update on the need for and feasibility of creating a Psychiatric Recovery Center in the East Valley.

Ms. Anderson stated that Dr. Michael Franczak, Chief Operating Officer of Behavior Health Services, from Marc Community Resources, Inc. has confirmed to present on the matter at the board meeting in January. DAT is also considering inviting Mesa Police representatives to also speak on the need and their current protocols when dealing with citizens with psychiatric needs at a future meeting.

- Provide an update on the ways to evaluate the adequacy of services and programs for people with disabilities and the implementation of ADA.

Ms. Anderson reported that DAT members are awaiting a response from City Council on their Mesa Speaks, Mesa Listens Report recommendations, but wish to keep the item on their agenda and open for discussion for the future.

7. Discuss consider and take action on participation in 2015 Mesa MLK Jr. Celebration Events.

- MLK Dinner to be held on January 17th, 2015 at 6pm.
- MLK Parade to be held on January 19th, 2015 in Downtown Mesa from 11am-12pm.

Mr. Moon, who is also the Chair of the Mesa MLK Jr. Celebration Committee, provided information on this year's events. A motion was made by Mr. Tompert to participate in the 2015 Mesa MLK Jr. Celebration events, Ms. Frias-Long seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Discuss, consider and take action on participation in 2015 Regional Unity Walk.

Ms. Alicoate advised that the Unity Walk will be on Saturday, January 31st, 2015 starting at 10:30am at the Tempe Beach Park. There will be a festival occurring after the walk until approximately 12pm. A motion was made by Ms. Byron to participate in the 2015 Unity Walk, Mr. Moon seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Hear, discuss and take action on conferences and/or meetings.

- Regional HRC Meeting scheduled for January 12th, 2015 from 5-7pm at ASU's Sky Song, Building 3-Synergy II, suite 135.

Ms. Alicoate also announced information for the upcoming Regional HRC meeting. Ms. Alicoate requested that board members send confirmation on whether they plan to attend.

Ms. Heap advised that the Mayor is planning to announce a communitywide pledge to help celebrate and support shared diversity and demonstrate that Mesa is making a commitment towards diversity, inclusion, and action through the signing of the pledge. Ms. Heap continued by explaining that the Mayor plans to reach out to a variety of Mesa entities, such as schools, faith-based organizations, businesses, non-profits, etc. to encourage them to also sign and promote the pledge as a communitywide effort.

10. Discuss and take action on scheduling of meetings, future agenda items, and general information.

- Next meeting will be held on January 28th, 2014.
- Presentation by Bev Tittle-Baker on the Care Partners work in Mesa.

The board agreed to hear this presentation in March.

- Presentation by Chief Heston Slibert on the Anti-Defamation League work on hate crimes.

The board agreed to hear this presentation in February.

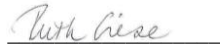
11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

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Submitted By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ruth Giese", is written over a horizontal line.

Ruth Giese,
Diversity Program Administrator